

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-77 (canceled)

78. (New) A process for the isolation of montelukast acid in solid form which comprises:

- (a) stirring toluene or ethyl acetate solution containing montelukast acid;
- (b) filtering the resulting solid for recovering wet cake; and
- (c) drying the wet cake under vacuum to obtain montelukast acid in solid form having a purity of $\geq 99\%$.

79. (New) The process of claim 78, wherein said montelukast acid in solid form is a light yellow solid having a melting range of 148-150 °C.

80. (New) A process for preparation of montelukast sodium in amorphous form comprising:

- (a) dissolving solid montelukast acid in methanol in presence of sodium hydroxide;
- (b) removing methanol under vacuum to obtain a solid residue;
- (c) triturating the solid residue with n-heptane;
- (d) filtering the resulting solid for recovering a wet cake; and
- (e) drying the wet cake under pressure to obtain montelukast sodium in amorphous form.

81. (New) Solid montelukast acid that is a light yellow solid having a melting point ranging from 148-150 °C, wherein the solid montelukast acid is characterized by ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) = 0.40-0.56 (bd, 4H, cyclopropyl H); 1.58 (s, 3H, CH_3); 1.59 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.14-2.63 (m, 6H, S-- CH_2 - C_3H_4 , and - CH_2 - CO_2H , S-CH- CH_2 - CH_2); 2.84-2.94 (m, 1H, S-CH- CH_2 - CH_2); 3.11-3.21 (m, 1H, S-CH- CH_2 - CH_2); 3.96-4.01 (t, 1H, S- CH_2 - CH_2 - CH_2); 7.07-8.05 (m, 15H, aromatic H).